

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE  
ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID IN SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES**

**Q – Why are the quarantine and treatments for Asian citrus psyllid necessary?**

A – The quarantine and treatments are preventive. They are designed to try to keep the pest away from citrus-producing regions in northern San Diego County, Imperial County and beyond.

**Q – How serious is this? What is at risk?**

A – California has a \$1.1 billion citrus industry, second in size only to Florida. If the Asian citrus psyllid begins to transmit the disease huanglongbing, or yellow shoot disease, the entire industry could be at risk.

**Q – If the pest and disease become established in California, how much economic damage would occur?**

A – A CDFA analysis based on Florida's experience with the pest and disease suggests it could cost \$224 million annually, 20 percent of total production.

**Q – What does this do to citrus trees?**

A – Once the pest starts to spread huanglongbing, infected trees decline in health, produce inedible fruit, and eventually die. There is no cure for the disease. Note – huanglongbing has not been detected in California.

**Q – Is it ok to eat citrus fruit?**

A – There has been no damage or harm to California citrus and no change in quality. The quarantine and treatments are designed to keep the pest from spreading to our state's citrus-growing areas.

**Q – Will there be a shortage of citrus?**

A – The quarantine currently does not include citrus-producing regions, so there should be no impact to citrus supply.

**Q – Will cut flower producers be impacted by the quarantine?**

A – Most cut flower producers are outside the quarantine zone and, of those within, only the ones utilizing *Murraya* will be impacted. *Murraya* is a host plant.

**Q – How many host plants are there?**

A – 56. Citrus and closely related plants.

**Q – What can people do to help?**

A – CDFA is asking people within the quarantine area to consume home-grown citrus fruit at home and to refrain from transporting home-grown citrus or citrus plants out of the area.